



Mishawaka Communicator

Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

March 2013

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



What is a State of the City Address? As a citizen, why might it be of interest to me? As a City we spend a lot of time and energy on this document every year, so in this month's message I wanted to provide a little history and some tidbits that you might find interesting.

Similar in concept to the State of the Union for the Country, and State of the State address for Indiana, the State of the City Address is a speech/report customarily given once each year by the Mayors across the United States. Originally, the Mayor of Mishawaka would travel through the City and present his State of the City Address to local businesses and service groups. On April 17, 1989, the Common Council passed an Ordinance, Number 3260, that states, "The Mayor shall annually address the Common Council at its second regularly scheduled meeting each February. The Mayor shall provide a statement of finances and the general condition of the city in said annual address."

This year's State of the City Address was delivered on Monday, February 18, 2013. As I reviewed the statistics of 2012 and outlined some of our initiatives planned for 2013, I was struck by the number of items that will have a profound impact on future generations and how we do business as a City. The theme of this year's State of the City was "Shaping Mishawaka's Future".

I have condensed the 194-page Address into ten priorities to give you a highlighted version of the 2013 State of the City Address. The full address can be viewed at <http://www.mishawaka.in.gov/soc2013>.

1. My Objective — to be "Debt-Free in the General Fund" Our goal is to accomplish this by the end of 2014. If we can become debt free, it will be the first time in over a century (that we have record of) that the City did not have debt in its general obligation funds.

2. Central Services We have begun to audit our facilities for efficiency and service potential. This audit has revealed that some of our facilities are not capable of providing the service that you deserve. The most obvious example is the old Central Motor Pool on Cedar Street. These facilities (8 undersized buildings) served our

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Alleviating Arthritis Pain

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Arthritis is inflammation of one or more joints, due to a breakdown of cartilage. Without the normal amount of cartilage, the bones rub together, causing pain, swelling and stiffness. Joint inflammation may result from an autoimmune disease, broken bones, general "wear and tear" on joints, or infection, usually by bacteria or virus. Usually the joint inflammation goes away after the cause goes away or is treated. Sometimes it does not and when this happens, it is called chronic arthritis.

Symptoms

Symptoms may include joint pain, joint swelling, reduced ability to move the joint, redness of the skin around a joint, stiffness, especially in the morning, and warmth around a joint.

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**Spring
is just
around
the corner!**



VITA Free Tax Prep

Volunteer Income
Tax Assistance

VITA IRS-certified tax preparers will prepare and e-file your taxes for FREE!

Call 2-1-1 between 8am-5pm Mon-Fri to **confirm eligibility** and **schedule your appointment**.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a service of the United Way of St. Joseph County.

Remember, the deadline for filing your taxes is Monday, April 15, 2013.

NEW RECYCLING BINS

Each residential customer will be receiving a new 65-gallon recycling toter during the last two weeks of March.

These new toters are the property of Allied Waste and must remain at your address in the event that you move. The existing orange recycling bin is yours to keep.

The new toters will be collected beginning with your first pick-up in April. Until then, please continue to use the orange bins.

There will be no Communicator published for April, 2013.

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (continued)

City for half a century. The City recently purchased the former Scott Brass facility on Union Street. It will likely serve the City for the next half century with 3 times the space under one roof. The cost was much lower to purchase than to build. The new Central Services location will help preserve equipment and help with efficiency.

3. Fire Station #4 After a decade of planning and construction, the new Fire Station 4 is complete and replaced an 80-year old fire station on Lincolnway East. This facility is specifically designed to serve our current and future needs.

4. Central Park Master Planning Central Park is one of Mishawaka's signature parks, located on prime riverfront property in our downtown. We are currently working on a master plan that would not only improve the park, but also serve as an attraction to bring people to our downtown and help attract development to adjacent property. Once a plan is approved, construction should begin this year.

5. 2012 Infrastructure Projects Development of our infrastructure is the single most important thing we can do to promote economic development. Infrastructure = jobs! Last year we completed some major road and sewer projects. Main Street now 5 lanes from First Street Downtown to SR 23; Hill/First Street/Downtown streets, curbs, sidewalks and lighting; on-going sewer separation-rebuilding of neighborhood streets and walks.

6. 2013 Infrastructure Projects Moving Forward Church Street/Union Underpass repair and road widening; Fir-Capital Connector road to begin construction; Bremen Highway, South Gateway road widening. We are seeking an intergovernmental agreement with St. Joseph County to proceed with the McKinley Avenue Overpass and road widening.

7. Private Development Activity We have seen an increase in development activity in 2012, hopefully a good sign of things to come. There were 11 new commercial buildings and 28 new homes, both increases over the year before. The downtown continued to be one of the biggest areas of growth. We expect 2013 to be even bigger.

8. 2012 Redevelopment Activity Sometimes, redevelopment activity within the City can have a great impact on promoting growth and adding character and vitality to a community. The Mishawaka Main Junior High Apartments, completed last December, are a perfect example of that. 2012 brought some significant redevelopment efforts including a creative partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

9. 2013 and Future Redevelopment Activity Future City redevelopment projects include clean up of the Cedar Street corridor, the construction of the new Center for Hospice Care campus adjacent to Central Park and the expansion of the Riverwalk from Central Park to Madison Ave/Cedar Street.

10. Through the Delivery of Services The RMG/Dodge fire illustrated how important the delivery of city services can be. The courageous men and women of the Mishawaka Fire Department battled the largest fire in Mishawaka since the Great Mishawaka Fire of 1872 that destroyed $\frac{3}{4}$ of the downtown. Firefighters braved extreme conditions to keep the fire from spreading, using over 3.5 million gallons of water or roughly half the amount of water used in the whole of Mishawaka in one day. Other service highlights include successfully negotiating 6 labor contracts, each of which improve the delivery of service to our citizens, and investing in new software that will allow us to communicate better between departments and most importantly, respond to citizens request for service.

The state of the Princess City is strong and is getting stronger by the day!



You can find the entire State of the City Address online at <http://www.mishawaka.in.gov/soc2013>



Alleviating Arthritis Pain (continued)

Treatment

Medications may be prescribed to alleviate joint pain. It is important that you are closely monitored by a doctor when taking arthritis medications. In some cases, your physician might recommend surgery.

Lifestyle changes and exercise (such as low-impact aerobic activity, range of motion exercises for flexibility, and strength training for muscle tone) can help relieve stiffness, reduce pain and fatigue and improve muscle and bone strength. Talk to your physician to find out what type of treatment is right for you.

Call your physician if you experience any of the following: joint pain persisting longer than 3 days; severe, unexplained joint pain; the affected joint is significantly swollen; you have a hard time moving the joint; or the skin around the joint is red or feels hot to the touch.